

Amendments to the Claims:

1.-9. **(Cancelled)**

10. **(Currently Amended)** A slide fastener comprising:

a first slider and a second slider arranged to be slidable on a pair of interlocking stringers so as to open the slide fastener when separated and close the slide fastener when brought together, each slider having a slider body portion, the slider body portion having an upper side for a puller ~~or-the-like~~, for a user to slide the slider along the stringers;

a first receiving portion disposed on the underneath side of the first slider body portion;

a first latching member disposed on the underneath side of the second slider body portion and engageable with the first receiving portion;

a second receiving portion disposed on the underneath side of the second slider body portion; **and**

a second latching member disposed on the underneath side of the first slider body portion and engageable with the second receiving portion;

wherein the first and second receiving portions are arranged to engage with the first and second latching members, respectively, to releasably latch the first and second sliders together.

11.-35. **(Cancelled)**

36. (New) The slide fastener of claim 10, wherein the first slider and the second slider are identical.

37. (New) The slide fastener of claim 36, wherein the first latching member and the first receiving portion releasably latch as a snap fit connection and the second latching member and the second receiving portion releasably latch as a snap fit connection.

38. (New) The slide fastener of claim 37, wherein one or more of the latching members or the receiving portions are resiliently deformed on engagement and disengagement with the other slider.

39. (New) The slide fastener of claim 38, wherein a first latch member is attachable to the first slider body portion and a second latch member is attachable to the second slider body portion by a form locking connection, the first latch member comprising the first latching member and the second receiving portion, and the second latch member comprising the second latching member and the first receiving portion.

40. (New) The slide fastener of claim 39, wherein each form locking connection is comprised of one or more notches on each slider body portion, the one or more notches being slidably insertable into a corresponding number of recesses in the respective latch member.

Appl. No.: 10/549,492
Amdt. dated October 31, 2008
Reply to Office Action of July 31, 2008

41. (New) The slide fastener of claim 40, wherein each of the one or more notches comprises a ramp having a sloped face and an erect face, the erect face abutting a side of the corresponding recess in the respective latch member to prevent retraction of each slider body portion from the respective latch member.